



VAPHS Quarterly Research Review

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RESEARCH OFFICE DEBUTS NEW “CONCIERGE” SERVICE TO INVESTIGATORS AND RESEARCH STAFF

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Facing challenges as you navigate your way through the twists and turns of VA research? Finding yourself with questions and not sure who to ask or even where to start? There is no doubt that conducting research can be a complex process and the VA Pittsburgh Research Office wants to do all that we can to help you. And for that reason, we are now announcing our new Research “Concierge” Service.



Much like what you would expect from a hotel’s concierge service, the Research Office Concierge wants VAPHS investigators and coordinators to have access to a staff member who serves a similar function. It is imperative that our “guests”- you the researchers– have front-line support and a “go to” person for those issues and challenges that you encounter.

The Research Office has been fortunate enough to hire Sara Vandruff as your “go to” person. Sara comes to us from the University of Pittsburgh where she worked as a IRB Coordinator and later as an IRB manager. Although Sara’s background is in Human Subjects Research, she will be available to all researchers and research staff. She joined the Research Office team in mid-September and has been busy acclimating herself to the types of research we conduct at VAPHS.

Sara will be available to you via phone, pager, and email and will be able to get you the information you need in order to successfully manage your projects. She will be working very closely with the rest of the Research Office staff to ensure that no question goes unanswered.

You can find Sara in the Research Office at Highland Drive, Building 2, 2nd floor, Room A2072SW. Her phone is 412-954-5399 and she can be paged by calling 412-360-6988 and entering pager number 2817. You can also reach Sara via email at Sara.Vandruff@va.gov.

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WHO'S NEW...

Please help us welcome the following new research staff members:

Laura Lupovitz is a new research assistant working on Dr. Dan Hall's pilot study, "Describing Different Cultural Perspectives on Surgical Informed Consent." Laura is also the manager of her congregation, Dor Hadash in Squirrel Hill. Laura lives with her husband Mike. They have a son, Eli, 23, a daughter, Ariel, 21, and four eccentric cats. Laura prefers to be known by her husband's last name, Horowitz, but uses her legal name, Lupovitz, for record keeping purposes here at the VA.

Maria Granata is a new research assistant who comes to the VA from the Central Blood Bank where she was a supervisor for a little over 5 years. Maria is really interested in research and holds an Associate's Degree in Specialized Technology.

Gordon Hannah, PhD, is a new Research Associate for the VA HOMES project in the MIRECC. Dr. Hannah was an Assistant Professor of Psychology at IUP and most recently a Senior Research Associate with Finger Lakes Law and Social Policy Center where he provided consulting services for human service organizations.

Randolph M. Scott-McLaughlin II, BS, is a Research Associate with the MIRECC. Randolph comes to us with prior research experience working with the Carnegie Mellon University Psychology Department as a Research Assistant and recently graduated from that institution.

Sharon McCarthy, PhD, LSW is a new Program Coordinator for the HOMES project in the MIRECC. Dr. McCarthy was previously on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon, teaching organizational behavior and leadership. She recently completed her MSW at the University of Pittsburgh, during which she completed an internship at the Center for the Treatment of Addictive Disorders (CTAD) at VAPHS, and has done writing and research on workplace participation, the adoption of innovative programs in child welfare, and evidence based management.

Preet Ghuman, BSc, is a Research Assistant for Dr. Walid Gellad at the Center for Health Equity and Promotion. Preet is also enrolled as a second-year PhD student in Health Services Research and Policy at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Before joining CHERP, Preet was a Research Assistant at the Center for Organization, Leadership, and Management Research at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

IRB Submission Deadlines and Meeting Dates

November

Submission Date:
October 28

Meeting Date:
November 23

December

Submission Date:
November 25

Meeting Date:
December 21

January

Submission Date:
December 30

Meeting Date:
January 25



Have something that you would like to see in the Newsletter?

Contact Krissa Caroff at 412-954-5384

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The VA Office of Research & Development and NIH are co-sponsoring an RFA on Substance Use and Abuse. Applications are due December 22, 2009. For more information please go to the following web address: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-10-001.html>
- The Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program has announced several funding opportunities for Fiscal Year 2009:

- Concept Award
- Post-doctoral Fellowship Award
- Era of Hope Scholar Award

For additional information regarding the Breast Cancer Research Program, please visit the CDMRP website (<http://cdmrp.army.mil>).

- The UNCF/Merck Science Initiative— an innovative program that creates opportunities in the biological and chemical sciences for African American students has announced the following science scholarships and fellowships:
 - Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship Awards
 - Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships
 - Postdoctoral Science Research Fellowships

Applications are being accepted until December 1, 2009. For more information please visit www.uncf.org/merck.

- The American Heart Association has posted the January-February 2010 deadlines for Research programs. View eligibility requirements, restrictions and terms of awards at my.americanheart.org. The online application will be available around November 1.



ACCESS TO RESEARCH AREAS

Earlier this month the VAPHS Research Office issued a reminder to all investigators and research staff regarding access to research areas. Please remember that only individuals properly credentialed and holding either a paid VA appointment or a “Without Compensation” (WOC) appointment and a valid identification card are authorized to work in these areas. Investigators are responsible for ensuring that the staff working on their projects hold a valid appointment and carry a valid VA ID at all times. Under no circumstances should staff be allowed into research space without a proper appointment and a VA ID card.

Visitors and vendors visiting a research area should schedule an appointment with the research area supervisors prior to arriving on station. Upon arrival, vendors and visitors must register with the VA police prior to accessing the research areas they are scheduled to visit but must be supervised during their visit.

Please notify the VA police and the Research Office immediately if you notice unauthorized personnel working in research space. VAPHS police will be conducting random checks throughout the facility and will remove unauthorized personnel from the facility.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Michael Boninger, MD, medical director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories has been named chairman of the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh. Since 2007, Boninger has directed the UPMC Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, which combines medical care and research to help patients regain independence and enhance quality of life. Dr. Boninger also serves as associate dean for medical student research at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Kent Kwoh's abstract entitled "The Joints on Glucosamine (JOG) Study: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial to Assess the Structural Benefit of Glucosamine in Knee Osteoarthritis Based on 3T MRI" was selected by the American College of Rheumatology's Communications and Marketing Committee to be highlighted to the media during the American College of Rheumatology's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Tuesday October 20th.

Dr. Rory Cooper, Director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories will receive the "Veteran of the Year Award" from the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania (VLP). Dr. Cooper will accept the honor at a special October 29th ceremony at the Carnegie Music Hall. Dr. Cooper is a U.S. Army veteran, and was also presented with the United States Congressional Record this summer by Congressman John Murtha.

Walid Gellad, MD, MPH has been appointed to the FDA Drug Safety Oversight Board as an Alternate Representative for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. This board meets monthly to discuss drug safety topics ranging from single drug or drug class issues to broader topics such as the role of meta-analyses in FDA reviews of drug safety or the role of tablet splitting and how it affects drug safety.

Dr. Michael Pramuka received the 2009 School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award. The purpose of this

award is to recognize outstanding teaching in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. It is intended to assist the faculty awardee to further enhance his or her teaching by providing a \$2,500 grant. It is the only award given School-wide that specifically recognizes teaching excellence.

Dr. Linda Fried has been named to the board of Associate Editors for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases.

AWARDS

Dr. Bambi Brewer "*STTR Phase II: Low-Cost Portable Telerehabilitation System for Intelligent Stretching and Remote Assessment of Hypertonic Arm Joints*". Funded by the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Walid Gellad recently received notification that his Health Services Research and Development, 5-year Career Development Award "Addressing Regional Variation in Drug Prescribing and Spending in the VA" will be funded.

Dr. Rory Cooper :

"*State of the Science Symposia Series*"; Funded by the U.S. Army

"*Neuroprosthesis and Solutions for Spinal Cord Dysfunction*"; Funded by the U.S. Army

"*ASPIRE-American Student Placements in Rehabilitation Engineering*"; Funded by the National Science Foundation.



VAPHS Publications and Presentations



Elevated serum creatinine as a marker of pancreatic necrosis in acute pancreatitis. Muddana V, Whitcomb DC, Khalid A, Slivka A, Papachristou GI. American Journal of Gastroenterology, 2009 Jan;104(1):164-70

Real-time model based electrical powered wheelchair control. Wang H, Salatin B, Grindle GG, Ding D, Cooper RA. Medical Engineering Physics, 2009 Sep 3; [Epub ahead of print]

Cognitive impact of genetic variation of the serotonin transporter in primates is associated with differences in brain morphology rather than serotonin neurotransmission. Jedema HP, Gianaros PJ, Greer PJ, Kerr DD, Liu S, Higley JD, Suomi SJ, Olsen AS, Porter JN, Lopresti BJ, Hariri AR, Bradberry CW. Molecular Psychiatry, 2009 Sep 1; [Epub ahead of print]

Sports - medicine for the disabled. The time for specialization in prosthetics and orthotics is now. Cooper R. Prosthetics & Orthotics International, 2009 Sep;33(3):187-91.

Mobility, assistive technology use, and social integration among adults with spina bifida. Dicianno BE, Gaines A, Collins DM, Lee S. American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 2009 Jul;88(7):533-41.

SMARTWheel: From concept to clinical practice. Cooper R. Prosthetics & Orthotics International, 2009 Sep;33(3):198-209.

Satisfaction related to wheelchair use in older adults in both nursing homes and community dwelling. Collins D, Cooper R. Disability and Rehabilitation. Assistive Technology, 2009 Sep;4(5):337-43.

Orbitofrontal and anterior cingulate cortex neurons selectively process cocaine-associated environmental cues in the rhesus monkey. Baeg EH, Jackson, ME, Jedema, HP, Bradberry, CW. The Journal of Neuroscience, 2009 Sep 16; 29(37):11619-27.

Validation of the Seating and Mobility Script Concordance Test (SMSCT). Fitzgerald S. Disability and Rehabilitation. Assistive Technology, 2009 Spring;21(1):47-56.

Comorbidity Between Psychiatric and General Medical Disorders in Homeless Veterans. Goldstein G. Psychiatric Quarterly, 2009 Jul 14. [Epub ahead of print]

Racial differences in Medication Use Among Older, Long-Stay Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Care Unit Patients. Hanlon JT, Wang X, Good CB, Rossi MI, Stone RA, Selma TP, Handler, SM. Consultant Pharmacist 2009 June; 24(5): 439-46.

VAPHS Publications and Presentations (continued from page 5)



Intensity of renal replacement therapy in acute Kidney Injury: Perspective from within the Acute Renal Failure Trial Network Study. Palevsky PM, O'Connor TZ, Chertow GM, Crowley ST, Zhang JH, Kellum JA, the US Department of Veterans Affairs/National Institutes of Health Acute Renal Failure Trial Network. *Critical Care* 2009 Aug 11; 13(4):310.

The Effects of Alcoholism Comorbidity on Neurocognitive Function Following Traumatic Brain Injury. Allen D, Goldstein G, Caponigro J, Donohue B.

Applied Neuropsychology, 2009 15:3, 186-192.

Altered Interactions of Tryptophan Metabolites in First-episode Neuroleptic-naïve Patients with Schizophrenia. Yao JK, Dougherty GG, Reddy RD, Keshavan MS, Montrose DM, Matson WR, Rozen S, Krishnan RR, McEvoy J, Kaddurah-Daouk R. *Molecular Psychiatry* 2009 Apr 28.

Molecular neurodevelopment: An in vivo 31P-1H MRSI study. Goldstein G, Panchalingam K, McClure RJ, Stanley JA, Calhoun VD, Pearlson GD, Pettegrew JW. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. 2009 Aug 13:1-13.

Pupillary Responses During Digit Span Under Light and Darkness in Psychiatric Patients. Steinhauer S. Presented at the 28th Pupil Colloquium (August 2009).

Developing and Evaluating SMarT: SBIRT Medical and Residency Training in Medical Residency Programs in Pennsylvania. Broyles LM, Gordon A. Presented at the Association for Medical Education and Research on Substance Abuse (AMERSA) 2009 National Conference.

Reliability Evaluation of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Consumption (AUDIT-C) in Persons with HIV. Broyles LM, Gordon A. Presented at the Association for Medical Education and Research on Substance Abuse (AMERSA) 2009 National Conference.

Alcohol Screening Tests Predict Adherence to Antiretroviral Regimens for Persons with HIV/AIDS. Broyles LM, Gordon A. Presented at the Association for Medical Education and Research on Substance Abuse (AMERSA) 2009 National Conference.

Evaluation of Hearing Status at the Time of Dementia Diagnosis. Jorgensen L. Presented at the National Center for Research and Audiology Rehabilitation Annual Conference (October 2009).